

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2006 in which claims 1-10 and 12-18 were rejected, and claims 13 and 19 were objected to. With this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 3 as an independent claim to include the patentable subject matter as detailed in the Examiner's comments. Applicant has also amended claims 3, 13, 14, and 18. Applicant cancels the remaining claims 9-11 and 19. The application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is hereby requested.

Objection to the Specification

To clarify for Examiner the previous communication sent by Applicant, Applicant is amending the specification per Examiner's suggestion on Page 3 of the 6/27/2005 communication from Examiner. As such, please remove the extra space from page 7, line 8 between the words "a" and "guide".

Claim Rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14 has been amended. The language as amended is fully supported by the original specification as filed. In as much as claim 14 has been amended and is fully supported by the specification as originally filed, any rejections and objections to unamended claims 15-18 which depend from claim 14 are obviated.

Claims Rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103

Albright discloses a tree harvester containing a clamping jaw. Examiner states that Albright discloses a single tube pivotally connected to the first frame member. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no such disclosure in the cited reference. Albright contains a boom 20, which appears to be constructed of two parallel plates, and not a tube. This is evidenced by the side view presented in Fig. 2. The boom 20 is generally L-shaped with a tapering of the edges at the front end. One of skill in the art would not replace this structure with a single tube. This is again evidenced by Fig. 2 illustrating the connection of boom 20 to the yoke 26 and articulated linkage 24 which are essential to the operation of the apparatus disclosed in Albright. See also Claim 1 at Col. 2, lns 55-65. In view of the allowability of claim independent claim 1, dependent claim 2 also stands allowable and the obviousness rejection thereof is obviated.

First Named Inventor: Terry Leseberg

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Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of former claim 19. As such, the rewritten claim now contains patentable subject matter as recognized in Examiner's former communications. Claims 4-8 and 12-13 depend from claim 3, and thus, in view of the allowability of independent claim 3, stand allowable.

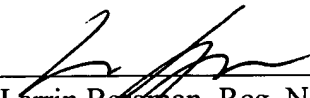
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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

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By: 
Larrin Bergman, Reg. No. 57,153
THE KINNEY & LANGE BUILDING
312 South Third Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1002
Telephone: (612) 339-1863
Fax: (612) 339-6580

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